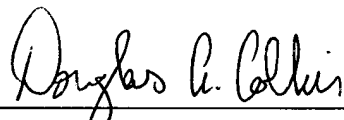


new claims 54-62 have been added. Claims 43-62 are now pending. Also, the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" on page 1 has been amended to claim priority to the parent application.

Attached hereto is separate sheet entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" indicating the changes made in this amendment. These amendments do not introduce new matter or limit the scope of coverage available under the doctrine of equivalents. Consideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph on page 1 under the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" was amended as follows:

-- The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/586,308 filed on June 2, 2000, entitled ARTIFICIAL DISC IMPLANT, which claims the benefit of the filing date of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/137,586 filed June 4, 1999, entitled ARTIFICIAL DISC REPLACEMENT. The referenced applications are [application is] incorporated herein by reference in their [its] entirety. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

Claims 54-62 have been added in this Preliminary Amendment.